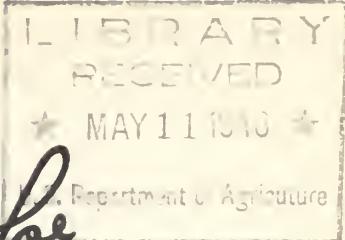


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Facts for NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN

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RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNTY COMMITTEE

Since the start of the AAA programs, county committees have been encouraged to take constantly increasing responsibility for the work in their own counties, and the progress many committees have made has been outstanding. They take full responsibility for seeing that the farmers in the counties understand the program; that the work is efficiently done by employees of their own selection; and that decisions of allotment, yields, and participation are fair and accomplish the real objectives of the program as nearly as possible.

Under the law, full responsibility for the administration of the farm program resides in the Secretary of Agriculture, but this responsibility, as far as possible, has been delegated to local committees, for the committee system is absolutely essential to the democratic carrying out of the program. This does not and cannot mean that the delegation of responsibility is unlimited. There are things that cannot be done and others must be done in certain ways. The reasons may be in the law, or in the necessity for uniformity at essential points.

It is these necessities that produce regulations. Regulations are sometimes irksome, but they cannot be done away with entirely. Viewed constructively they define and make clear committee responsibility -- doing away with the vague borderlands of authority in which no one would know whether he could act with confidence or not. They lay a firm basis for a cooperative system of operation in which committee initiative and responsibility are fundamental.

Q. W. Manchester

NORTHEAST FARMERS ON FARM AND HOME HOUR

The county committees from Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, and Coos County, New Hampshire, represented the Northeast in the radio series on "Today's Soil for Today and Tomorrow" recently presented on the National Farm and Home Hour. In this series, county committeemen representing fifteen States discussed their local soil problems and the way they have used the Agricultural Conservation Program to solve these problems before an audience estimated at over seven million people. Pasture improvement and conservation of woodlands were the subjects discussed by the Northeast committeemen.

"There has been more pasture work done in Susquehanna County in the past two years than had been done in the 150 years before that time," was the report given by A. R. Bush, W. W. Resseguie, and A. J. Patton. There is nothing new about pasture improvement work, they said, but, previous to the Agricultural Conservation Program, not enough farmers did anything about it and very few farmers were financially able to do a really complete job. "We thought of our cropland first and usually ran short on cash before we got to our pastures. In the meantime our pastures got poorer and poorer."

Ismond Ellingwood, Charles Jackson, and William Galbraith of Coos County, reported that about half of all the active farms in New Hampshire carried out AAA woodland improvement practices last year. They stated that the 15,000 acres thus improved represent a big change from the days when everything that would sell was cut, and woods were exploited in much the same manner as soils have been exploited. "Farmers are thinking in terms of the future of their woodlands, and the ACP practices, particularly those of fencing cattle out of woodlands and improvement cutting, are especially valuable to us."

AS SALES OF POTATOES INCREASE, INCOME DECLINES

In most of the years since 1910 the quantity of potatoes sold during the calendar year has been between 200 and 260 million bushels...With income of industrial workers at the 1924-29 level, sales of about 200 million bushels would normally result in income from potatoes of about 375 million dollars. As sales increase, the income from potatoes declines, and with the sales at 260 million bushels the cash income would amount to only 175 million dollars, or 200 million dollars less than when sales are only 200 million bushels. -- *From the Agricultural Situation, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, April 1940.*

Radio station WEEI, Boston, Massachusetts, now has a special farm program scheduled for 6:00 to 6:45 a.m. each weekday. It will carry feature programs as well as current farm news.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Allotments and yields in Gloucester County, New Jersey, were set this year only after a conference with community committeemen. Results of this procedure were (1) that the county committee and county agent secured more complete and accurate information concerning the problems of individual farms, and (2) the community committeemen became better informed regarding the details of county administration of the program.

Wayne County (New York) uses colored pins on a detailed county map to show the location of cooperating farms. The pins are placed on the map each year as the sign-up progresses and the progress of each community committeeman down the roads of his community is displayed in graphic form. Under this system, pins can be removed in the fall as the farms are checked for performance and the map becomes an inventory of uncompleted work.

H. J. Winner, I. F. Heim, and Charles Fry, members of the Lycoming (Pa.) county committee, take turns at handling a weekly half-hour radio program over WRAK, Williamsport, Pa. Local talent is used to furnish music and entertainment, and community committeemen assist in the discussions on the Farm Program.

A progress report of the 1940 sign-up from Connecticut showed, on April 1, New London County in the lead with an enrollment already six percent greater than last year's total. All the field work in this county is being done by community committeemen.

Chester County (Pa.) farm women are not to be outdone by the farmer-businessmen meetings carried on by the men. They have a county meeting planned for early in May at which city women will be their guests at a luncheon. A panel discussion on the farm problem and the interdependence of farm and city will be a feature of the meeting.

Vermont has scheduled meetings in every county in the State at which a State committeeman will discuss with county and community committeemen the 1941 Agricultural Conservation Program with the object of securing suggestions for further improvement of the program.

Committeemen in Cumberland County, Maine, were so well pleased with the county farmer-businessman meeting held in Portland that similar meetings are now being planned for other towns in the county.

Armstrong County (Pa.) committeemen and businessmen brought their wives to a county farmer-businessman meeting. That meant an attendance of 150. County committeemen, the county agent, a judge, and the district attorney appeared on the program.

Community committeemen and supervisors in Adams County (Pa.) meet once each month to discuss current agricultural problems and progress of the farm program.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1940

1. 1941 Enrollment. Since no farmer will be eligible for payment under the 1940 program unless he has signed NER-414, NER-415, or an ACP-64 before the closing date established by the State committee, it is the responsibility of all committeemen to give adequate publicity to these closing dates and to determine that all farmers in the county have had an adequate opportunity to enroll in the 1940 program.
2. Grants of Aid. August 31 is the last date for farmers to file an ACP-64 requesting material under the 1940 program. Some State committees may establish an earlier date. County offices and county committees should cooperate carefully with the State office so that all orders from farmers may be routed to contract suppliers by the 15th of September. This should allow sufficient time for the suppliers to make delivery and for farmers to apply the material under the program prior to the program closing date, October 31, 1940.
3. Checking Performance. In most states, schools for training farm checkers will be held in June, and actual performance checking will start early in July. Checking of performance must be completed by November 30, and no farm checkers are to be employed after that date.
4. Applications for Payment. The closing date for filing 1940 applications for payment has not been established, but such a date will be announced later. However, plans should be made to complete as far as possible the transmittal of 1940 applications for payment to Washington by December 30, 1940. Farmers have said that in the past we have been slow in making payments. If we make adequate plans at this time, there should be no reason for delaying payments this year.
5. 1941 Program. A National Conference of State Committeemen will be held in Washington on July 10, 11, and 12 for the purpose of formulating the 1941 program. Prior to this date, during the late spring or early summer, individual counties will be asked to make their recommendations to their State committee concerning the changes they desire to be made in the 1941 program. These recommendations will be considered at a regional conference of State committeemen immediately prior to the National Conference. After the National Conference, the National, Regional, and State bulletins for 1941 will be formulated.
6. 1941 Wheat Program. (New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.) All notices of 1941 wheat acreage allotments must be in farmers' hands by July 15 and all farm contacts covering both wheat allotments and the crop insurance program are to be completed by September 1. It is important to meet this date schedule since September 1 is the last date for wheat farmers to exercise their option of having their farms considered as either allotment or non-allotment farms, as well as the last date for making application for crop insurance.
7. 1941 Elections. All 1941 committee elections must be completed prior to December 31, 1940.

--F. B. Northrup, Assistant Director
Northeast Division